

VIA ECFS

March 7, 2014

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554  
Attn: Wireline Competition Bureau

**Re: WC Docket No. 10-90  
Rural Broadband Experiment Expression of Interest for Price Cap Areas  
Wilkes Telephone Membership Corporation**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Wilkes Telephone Membership Corporation (“Wilkes Telecommunications”) hereby expresses interest in participating in the Commission’s rural broadband experiments to provide robust, scalable high-speed broadband to unserved high-cost areas with additional Connect America funding.<sup>1</sup> Wilkes Telecommunications is an ILEC serving rural areas of North Carolina, and proposes deployment as follows.

Proposed Service Areas

The experiment will provide broadband service to a minimum of **528** eligible high-cost locations in unserved high-cost Census Blocks within these Census Tract(s):

Virginia: County	Tract
Pittsylvania	51143010100
Pittsylvania	51143010200
Pittsylvania	51143010300
Pittsylvania	51140310500
Pittsylvania	51143010600

The experiment will provide broadband service to a minimum of **2,428** eligible high-cost locations in unserved high-cost Census Blocks within these Census Tract(s):

---

<sup>1</sup> See *Technology Transitions et al.*, GN Docket No. 13-5 et al., Order, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Report and Order, Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Proposal for Ongoing Data Initiative, FCC 14-5 (rel. Jan. 31, 2014).

Virginia: County	Tract
Pittsylvania	51143010400
Pittsylvania	51143010700
Pittsylvania	51143010900

#### Proposed Services

Voice and Broadband services with broadband transmission speeds of at least 100 Mbps downstream / 10 Mbps upstream and up to 1Gbps downstream/100 Mbps upstream provided over fiber to the home technology to all subscribers located in each of the identified census tracts. Based on the latest census information there is a potential of approximately 8,900 and 3,700 households respectively in each of the contiguous price cap service areas being proposed. This is a total of approximately 12,600 households with potential availability of a 1Gbps service.

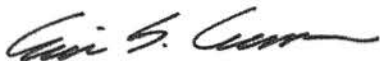
#### Funding

Wilkes Telecommunications estimates construction costs to be a total of approximately \$50M and \$20M respectively based on knowledge of the area. The costs will be refined if and when a formal proposal is submitted. Wilkes Telecommunications would request initial capital funding for the project as well as proportionate ongoing funding to support the operational expenses of the network from the Connect America Fund to operate and maintain the system.

Wilkes Telecommunications expects service within the unserved high-cost Census Blocks to be offered within a year after construction starts.

Wilkes Telecommunications appreciates the opportunity to provide this non-binding expression of interest. Please contact the undersigned with any questions.

Sincerely,



Eric S. Cramer  
CEO  
Wilkes Telecommunications  
1400 River Street  
Wilkesboro, NC 28697  
[ericcramer@wilkestmc.net](mailto:ericcramer@wilkestmc.net)  
336-973-6121